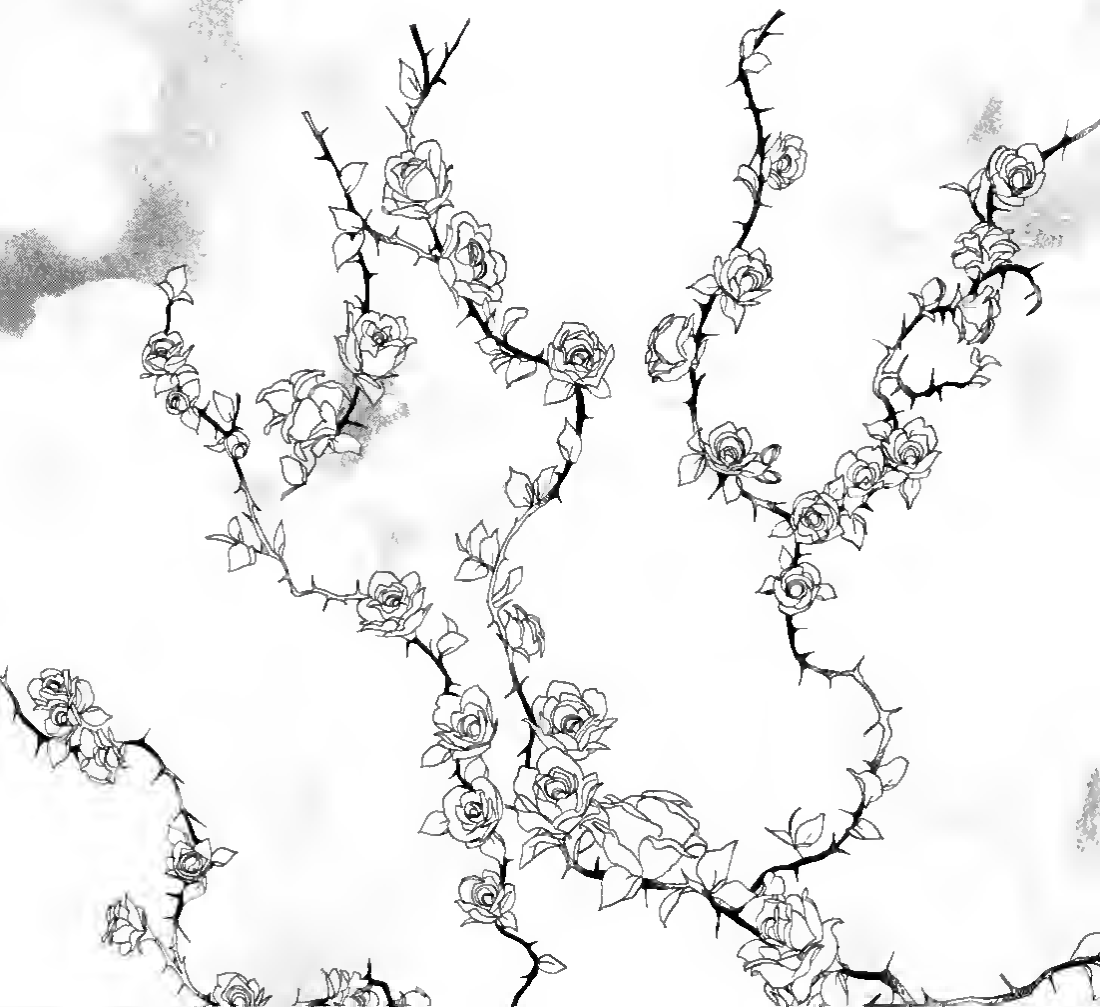
いばらの涙
Briar Tears
Presented by rikachi
リカチ

Story 1

Who
will wake
me from my
slumber?



LILIA!
I'M GLAD I RAN INTO YOU!
I WAS KINDA NERVOUS ABOUT GOING TO MY FIRST CLASS ALL ALONE.
MORNING, MAKI.
OH!
MORNING.

YEAH, I KNOW... BUT I BET THERE WILL BE A LOT OF NEW GIRLS HERE, TOO..
THIS COLLEGE IS CONNECTED TO OUR OLD HIGH SCHOOL, SO THERE SHOULD BE PLENTY OF FAMILIAR FACES.
I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
OH!
CAN'T YOU JUST SAY I'M SHY AROUND STRANGERS?
YOU'RE A LION AT HOME AND A MOUSE ABROAD, HUH?
flutter

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
OO Publishing
文1
Literature I
ARE YOU A FRESHMAN, BY ANY CHANCE?
OH!
YES, I AM.
YEAH!
THANKS. I SPACED OUT FOR A MINUTE THERE...
WOW,
SHE'S TALL...
WE ARE, TOO!
OH, YOU ARE?
I'M MAJORING IN JAPANESE LITERATURE.
OH! SO ARE WE.

Yay!
OH, ME, TOO!!
WE'RE IN SECTION D.
MAYBE WE'RE IN THE SAME INTRO CLASS.
WE'VE ALREADY MADE A NEW FRIEND!
YEAH.
AND I WAS SURPRISED BY HOW COOL KANNA-SAN WAS
OR SHOULD I SAY PRETTY?

HUH!?
D-DON'T BE RIDICU-LOUS!!
DID YOU FALL FOR HER?
I-IT'S NOT... LIKE THAT.
OKAY.
IT'S REALLY NOT...
YEAH,
I KNOW.

WHY DON'T WE ASK HER TO HANG OUT WITH US?
OKAY!
MORNING!
MORNING!
WHERE'S ISHIDA-SAN?
LILIA'S NOT TAKING THIS COURSE.
OH!

SO IT'S JUST YOU AND ME, HUH?
JUST YOU AND ME...
DID YOU GET YOUR NAILS DONE?
OH!
I DID THEM MYSELF...
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT LOOK CUTE.
YEAH, IT DOES!
IT'S THE PERFECT LOOK FOR A CUTE GIRL LIKE YOU, MAKI-CHAN.
HUH !?
I'M NOTHING SPECIAL!

TAKE A LOOK AT MINE.
I CUT THEM TO THE QUICK!
CUTE STUFF JUST LOOKS WRONG ON ME.
I-I THINK IT WOULD LOOK GOOD ON YOU.
REALLY? WANT TO CHOOSE ONE FOR ME NEXT TIME, THEN?
S-
...
SURE.
PINKY SWEAR!
O... KAY.
ACK!
Ooh...

OKAY.
OH, LOOK!
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
I JUST... LIKE HER AS A FRIEND...
WELL, KANNA'S MAJOR EYE CANDY.
I CAN SEE WHY YOU'D BE DRAWN TO HER.
YOUR PRINCE HAS COME.
OH!
WHAT ABOUT YOU, LILIA?
I HAVE STUFF TO DO NOW.
YOU KEEP BAILING ON US LATELY.
I'M JUST BUSY.

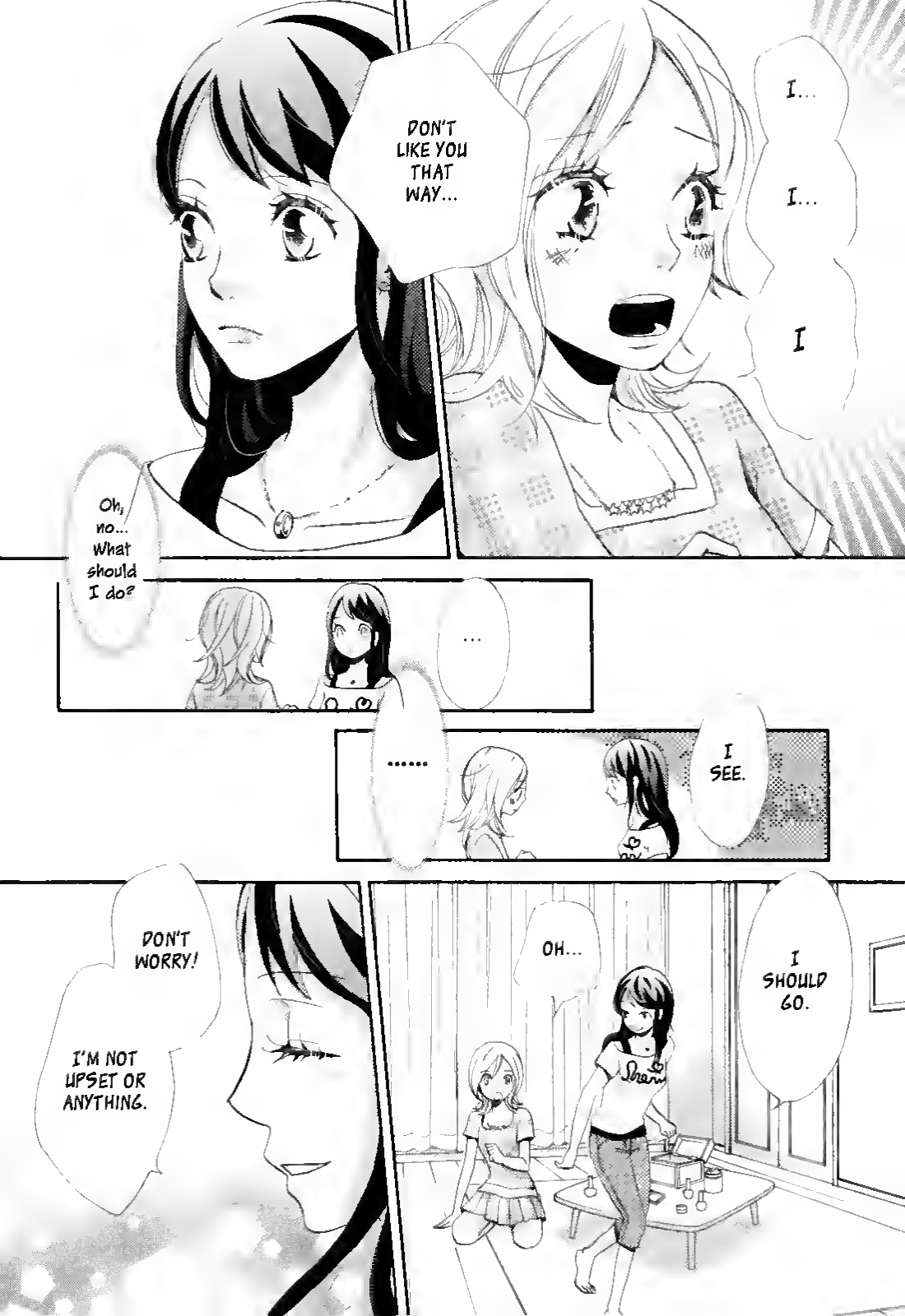
GO ON. SHE'S WAITING.
HOW ABOUT THIS ONE?
OH! I THINK THAT ONE WOULD LOOK GREAT ON YOU.
GUESS I'LL GIVE IT A TRY, THEN!

3. smile
...Oh...
YOUR PLACE IS SO CUTE!
I-
IT'S NOTHING SPECIAL.
WANNA DO MY NAILS NOW?
When she smiles...
she reminds me of...
badum
badum
badum

UH-
HUH?
I'M...
HEY,
MAKI?
Phoo

CRAZY
ABOUT
YOU.

Story 2


I...
I...
I
DON'T LIKE YOU THAT WAY...
Oh, no... What should I do?
...
.....
I SEE.
I SHOULD GO.
OH...
DON'T WORRY!
I'M NOT UPSET OR ANYTHING.

tmp...
But...
she just sprung it on me out of the blue.....
WHAT'S WRONG?
WHY DID YOU WANT TO WALK TO CAMPUS TOGETHER THIS MORNING?
OH... UM, Y'KNOW... JUST STUFF.
I CAN'T TELL HER I'M AFRAID TO FACE KANNA ALONE..
OH,
HI, KANNA!
!

pat
'MORNING, MAKI. ♥
'MORNING, LILIA!
YOU TWO CAME IN TOGETHER THIS MORNING, HUH?
.....
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
NO.
I'm more surprised... that she's acting like nothing happened...
...But I can't tell her that.
WHAT'S THAT?
I FIGURED I'D GET A PART-TIME JOB,
SO I'M JOTTING DOWN SOME INFO.

WHAT?
IT'S A SECRET!
MAKI,
YOU GOTTA GIVE ME ANOTHER MANICURE SOON, OKAY?
"Soon"...
When she said that, I...

HUH?
YOU HAVE A TUTORING SESSION TODAY?
YEAH.
DON'T YOU EVER GET ANY DAYS OFF?
WELL, THIS KID IS SMART BUT DOESN'T STUDY MUCH,
SO IT'S A BIT OF A STRUGGLE.
IS IT A BOY?
A GIRL.
SHE'S REALLY CUTE, TOO.

...LOOKS LIKE SHE'S HAVING A GOOD TIME.
SHE NEVER WANTS TO GO ANYWHERE WITH US ANYMORE..
...
.....
KANNA, YOU MEAN?
.....
UM, MAKI... ARE YOU AND KANNA--
thud
OH,
I'M SOR-...
Floop

Wow...
A high-schooler...
NO, I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD APOLOGIZE!!
bow
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL GIRL.
I HATE GIRLS LIKE THAT.
OH...
SHE WAS SO POLITE, THOUGH?

...
YOU KNOW, MAKI,
IF YOU DON'T MAKE A MOVE SOON, SOMEONE'S GOING TO BEAT YOU TO IT.
WELL, I'M HARDLY ONE TO TALK, I GUESS...
OH, IT'S KANNA!

KANNA!
GO ON.
tap
U-UM,
DO YOU HAVE A TUTORING SESSION TODAY?
OH,
I HAVE OTHER PLANS TODAY.

KANNA!!
UM, I--
UM, MAKI,
THAT MANICURE I ASKED YOU FOR... IT'S OKAY.
WE CAN JUST FORGET IT.
Huh...?

BYE,
MAKI!
KANNA-SENSEI!
OH!
Kanna...
looks happy...

"Have you heard of Briar Rose?"
"She just lay in wait, safe behind the briars."

...She just
Oh, that's right.
lay there, deep in slumber, waiting for her prince to come.

Story 3

My prince was... the *girl* who was my first love.

STUPID-HEAD!

IDIOT!

YOU *STINK*, MAKI!

YOU STAY OUT OF IT, TOMBOY!
DON'T YOU LOSERS HAVE ANYTHING BETTER TO DO THAN PICK ON HER!?
CUT IT OUT!
OR WE'LL SHUN YOU, TOO!
YOU WANNA SHUN ME?
GO RIGHT AHEAD.
OR DO YOU WANNA SETTLE THIS WITH OUR FISTS!?
I'LL KICK YOUR BUTTS, AND YOU KNOW IT!

FRICKIN' TOMBOY.
TCH.
...In that one brief moment,
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GONNA BE IN THE SAME CLASS. NICE TO MEET YOU!
I'M HIROMI.
THOSE BOYS ARE SO IMMATURE.
YOU OKAY?

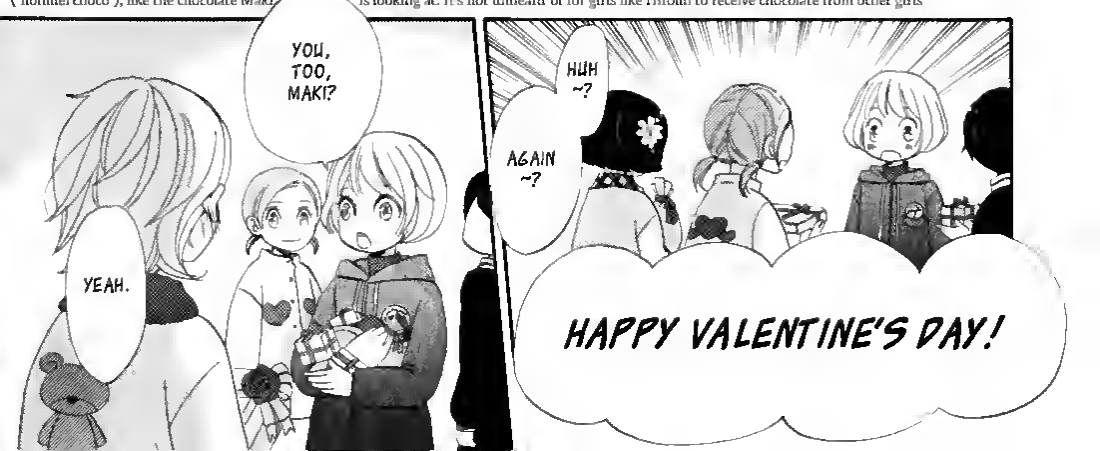
shriek
SHE PASSED ALL THREE BOYS!
HIROMI RULES!
YEAH, SHE'S AWE-SOME!
HIRO ...
UH--
UM...
U-
my whole world changed...
yay!
MAKI!
IS THAT...

FOR ME?
Y-YEAH, I FIGURED YOU'D BE, UM, SWEATY.
THANKS! YOU'RE SO CONSIDERATE, MAKI.
SO YOU DO TALK!
Y- YEAH.
HEY, LET'S TEAM UP NEXT TIME!
O- OKAY.

SO WE LIVE CLOSEST TO EACH OTHER, HUH?
YEAH.
UM,
UH--
UM...
WHAT IS IT?

WE ALL THINK OF YOU AS OUR FRIEND.
JOIN YOUR GROUP OF FRIENDS...?
C-... CAN I
I'D SAY YOU ALREADY HAVE.
WOW, THEY HAVE ALL SORTS OF STUFF!

* In Japan, women give men chocolate on Valentine's Day. Sometimes it's out of obligation/tradition ("giri choco"), and sometimes it's a romantic gesture ("honmei choco"), like the chocolate Maki is looking at. It's not unheard of for girls like Hiromi to receive chocolate from other girls



HERS IS SO FANCY!
THANKS.
THAT WAS A GOOD MOVIE!
YEAH!
I JUST KNEW YOU'D LIKE IT, HIROMI.
Y'KNOW ...
UH-HUH?
NEXT YEAR... WHEN WE GO TO JUNIOR HIGH... WE MIGHT NOT BE IN THE SAME CLASS ANYMORE... RIGHT?
BUT, UMMM ...
.....

smile 13
B-...
WE'LL STILL BE FRIENDS, RIGHT!?
EVEN IF WE AREN'T...
OF COURSE.

See you later!
Bye-bye!
.....

チュ
kiss
.....
ドキ
badum
ドキ
badum
ドキ
badum
flop
ブッ
かあああ
bluuush

My...
prince
...
I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET OUR NEW TRANSFER STUDENT.

MY NAME IS
KASHIWAGI JULI.

Story 4

I WANNA DRAW YOU!
BE MY PARTNER, ROMEO!
WAIT A--
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO PAIR UP BASED ON OUR STUDENT NUMBERS
WE SWITCHED.
IT'S HARD FOR ME TO LOOK AT ANYONE BUT YOU, ROMEO.
HEY!

YOU'RE SO MEAN!
WE'RE GOING TO RUN OUT OF TIME IF YOU AND JULI START BICKERING AGAIN.
IT'S OKAY, MAKI.
BUT...
AND YOU'RE BOTHERING HIROMI! SHE--
YOU'RE BEING SELFISH!
WHY DON'T YOU GIVE IT A REST!?
SEE?
YES, MA'AM!
YOU, THERE!
GET TO WORK!
I'M GONNA SHOW HOW COOL YOU ARE,
SO MAKE SURE MINE LOOKS CUTE, OKAY?
HEHE.
I'M NOT VERY GOOD AT DRAWING...
SketchBook

AHAHA.
THAT'S TERRIBLE,
JULI-CHAN!
I-I'M SORRY~!
IS THIS ME!?
HUH ~?
YOU SHOULD DRAW THE REST OF THE GROUP, TOO.
I--
NO WAY!
IT MIGHT BE FUN, THOUGH!
WELL, IT DOES LOOK LIKE HER. KINDA.
I DID IT WITH ALL MY LOVE, THOUGH.
I'M BAD AT DRAWING!
HEY!
YEAH!
I DON'T FEEL GOOD.

WHY DON'T YOU GO TO THE INFIRMARY, THEN?
OH! I'LL GO WITH YOU.
NO, THANKS!
I'LL GO ON MY OWN.
MAKI!
WAIT!
MAKI!
What's wrong with her...?

HEY, ARE YOU OKAY!?
HEY! MAKI!
EVERY-ONE'S ACTING FUNNY!
YOU'RE ALL FAWNING OVER THAT HORRIBLE GIRL.
EVEN HIROMI LETS HER GET AWAY WITH MURDER!
BUT I HATE HER!
I CAN'T STAND HER.
... MAKI.
SHE THINKS SHE'S ALL THAT, JUST 'CAUSE SHE'S THE TINIEST BIT CUTE...
AND HIROMI... HIROMI--
MIGHT LIKE HER BETTER THAN US NOW..

Liar.
C-C'MON, HIROMI'S JUST BEING NICE.
WHEN SHE SEES SOMEONE BEING LEFT OUT, SHE HAS TO DO SOMETHING, Y'KNOW? SHE'S ALWAYS STICKING UP FOR PEOPLE.
SO I DON'T THINK IT'S ABOUT... WHO SHE LIKES BEST...
She's always been our prince...
Always...
.....
WANT ME TO GO GET HIROMI?
.....
You guys are hurt, too, aren't you?
But now.....
the one she was closest to.
And I was always...

I don't like this...

ROMEO, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
.....THE BATH-ROOM.
I WANNA COME TOO! ♥
THAT'S WEIRD.
HIROMI USUALLY DOESN'T LIKE IT WHEN PEOPLE GO TO THE BATHROOM WITH HER
.....

女子トイレ
Girls' Restroom
HIROMI!
WHAT IS IT?
I...
OH! JULI.
.....
NEVER MIND.
?

She's perfect for Hiromi...
So pretty.
Juli's so pretty.
I'LL COME, TOO!
I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU LOVE TO READ
WOULD YOU GO FIND US SOME GOOD BOOKS FOR THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL PLAY, MAKI?
SURE.
AND I THINK IT WOULD BE EASIER FOR US TO SETTLE ON A PLAY IF WE JUST HAVE THE CLASS PICK FROM A LIST.

HMM, WHAT SHOULD WE PICK..?
THIS IS A GOOD ONE!
...
HOW... DID I GET STUCK DOING THIS WITH HER...?
OH, I LIKE THIS ONE, TOO!
WHY DON'T WE LOOK FOR THEM IN SILENCE !?
...
HAVE YOU HEARD OF BRIAR ROSE?

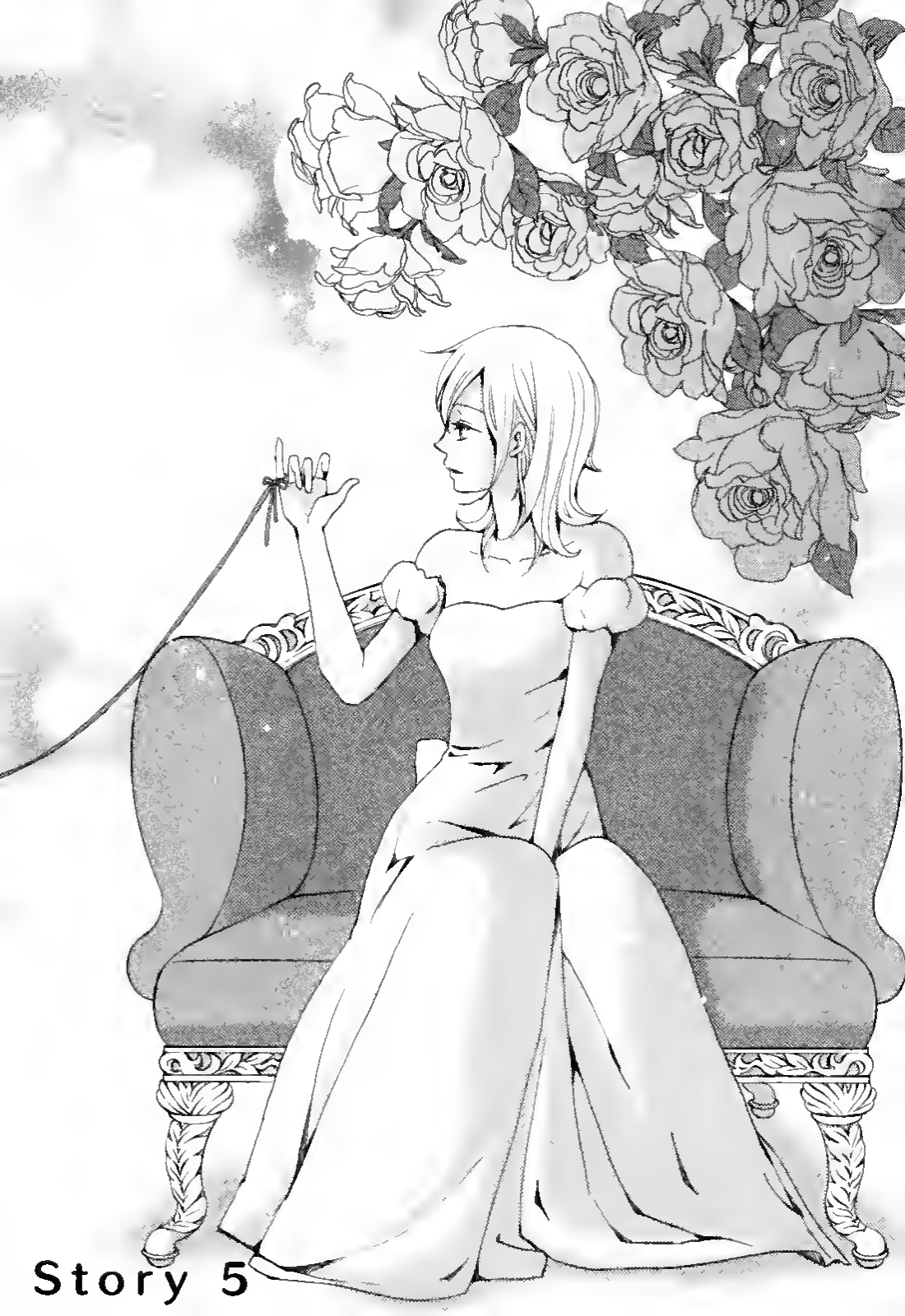
.....
HEHEH! SHE'S A FAIRY TALE PRINCESS WHO WAS A LOT LIKE YOU.
SHE NEVER DID ANY-THING.
DIDN'T BUDGE AN INCH.
SHE JUST LAY IN WAIT,
SAFE BEHIND THE BRIARS.
BUT I'M NOT LIKE YOU.

.....
YUP,
IT'S GOTTA BE THIS ONE!
...And...
like Romeo and Juliet, who formed a deep bond when they put their lives on the line for each other,
she...

stole the prince's heart...
...

I wanted to run from the pain...
so I chose a high school that was far away.

OH,
SORRY!
DOES IT BUG YOU WHEN PEOPLE TOUCH IT?
drop
YOU HAVE SUCH SILKY HAIR.
chatter
chatter
I'M
ISHIDA LILIA.
NICE TO MEET YOU.



Story 5

.....
YOU'RE SO QUIET. . I'VE BARELY HEARD YOU SAY A WORD.
I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU HATED TALKING,
BUT YOU'VE GOT A CUTE VOICE!
HUH~?
YOU IDIOT! NOW SHE'S CLAMMED UP AGAIN!
YOU'RE NOT AN EASY PERSON TO HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH, YUKI.
THAT'S NOT TRUE, IS IT?
HUH?
WHA--?
SEE? HOW CAN SHE ANSWER A QUESTION LIKE THAT?
EH~~~~~

MAKI,
MEANIE~
YUKI'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS.
SORRY,
Her voice...
LET'S BE FRIENDS!
sounds like Hiromi's (my first love)...?

I'M GONNA GO FOR ANOTHER!
swoosh
YUKI! DEFENSE!!
Wow!
ISN'T YUKI AWESOME?
SHE'S SO COOL!
I HEAR A GIRL ASKED HER OUT!
WOW! WELL, THIS IS A GIRLS' SCHOOL
YEAH!
I'M SO GLAD SHE'S IN OUR CLASS! ♥
SHE'S THE MOST POPULAR GIRL IN OUR YEAR!
MAKI!

YOU IDIOT,
HEHE.
I DEDICATE THIS VICTORY TO YOU!!
Y-YEAH.
DID YOU SEE ME KICKING BUTT OUT THERE?
WHAT'S SHE SUPPOSED TO SAY TO THAT?
HUH!?
ギュッ
hug
BUT MAKI-CHAN'S
MY GODDESS!
Oh... I'm so happy...

I wish I got to spend more time with you...
Yuki...
Yuki...
Flower Land Toshi

OH!
HAIJIMA KATAN!
DO YOU LIKE READING NOVELS, MAKI?
OH... YEAH, I READ QUITE A FEW OF THEM.
I READ EVEN MORE BACK IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL... SINCE I DIDN'T HAVE MANY FRIENDS THEN...
AND I GOT PICKED ON.
I DON'T READ MUCH PROSE,

BUT I LIKE HAIJIMA KATAN.
YEAH,
I LOVE HAIJIMA'S WORK TOO.
!!
WOW, IT'S LIKE WE'RE MEANT FOR EACH OTHER!
clatter
MARRY ME!
tug
HUH!?
THE TEACHER'S LOOKING FOR YOU, YUKI.
ENOUGH WITH YOUR STUPID JOKES.
sigh
HMM~

OH, MUST BE 'CAUSE IT'S SO HOT OUT TODAY.
YOU KNOW,
HUH!?
YOUR FACE IS RED.
YUKI'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT.
YOU SHOULDN'T TAKE HER SERIOUSLY.
What's that supposed to mean...?
OH,
I FORGOT MY ENGLISH TEXTBOOK ...

feel the same way about Yuki that I do...?
HERE, YOU CAN USE MINE.
THANKS!
Could Lilia...
and a new one (me).
An old friend (Lilia)...

LOOK,
MAKI!
Hajima Katan
灰島華淡

APPARENTLY HER NEW PLACE IS RIGHT NEAR MY APARTMENT.
I SAW HER AND SAID HELLO! ♥
HOW DID YOU SWING THAT!?
IT'S SIGNED BY HAIJIMA KATAN!!
灰島華池
Haijima Katan
SHE WAS AMAZING. JUST LIKE HER PICTURE.
Oh...

I'M GONNA MAKE FRIENDS WITH HER. THEN YOU CAN MEET HER, TOO!
O-
OKAY...
clench
I know what that face means...
.....
I HAVE STUFF TO DO TODAY!
YOU TWO GO ON WITHOUT ME.

.....
WANT TO STOP SOMEWHERE ON THE WAY?
SURE
ドーナツ
New
¥160
I'M GETTING SICK OF DONUTS.
WANT TO STRETCH OUR LEGS A BIT NEXT TIME, AND HIT THE CAFE AT THE NEXT STATION OVER?
.....
WHAT'S KEEPING YUKI SO BUSY LATELY?

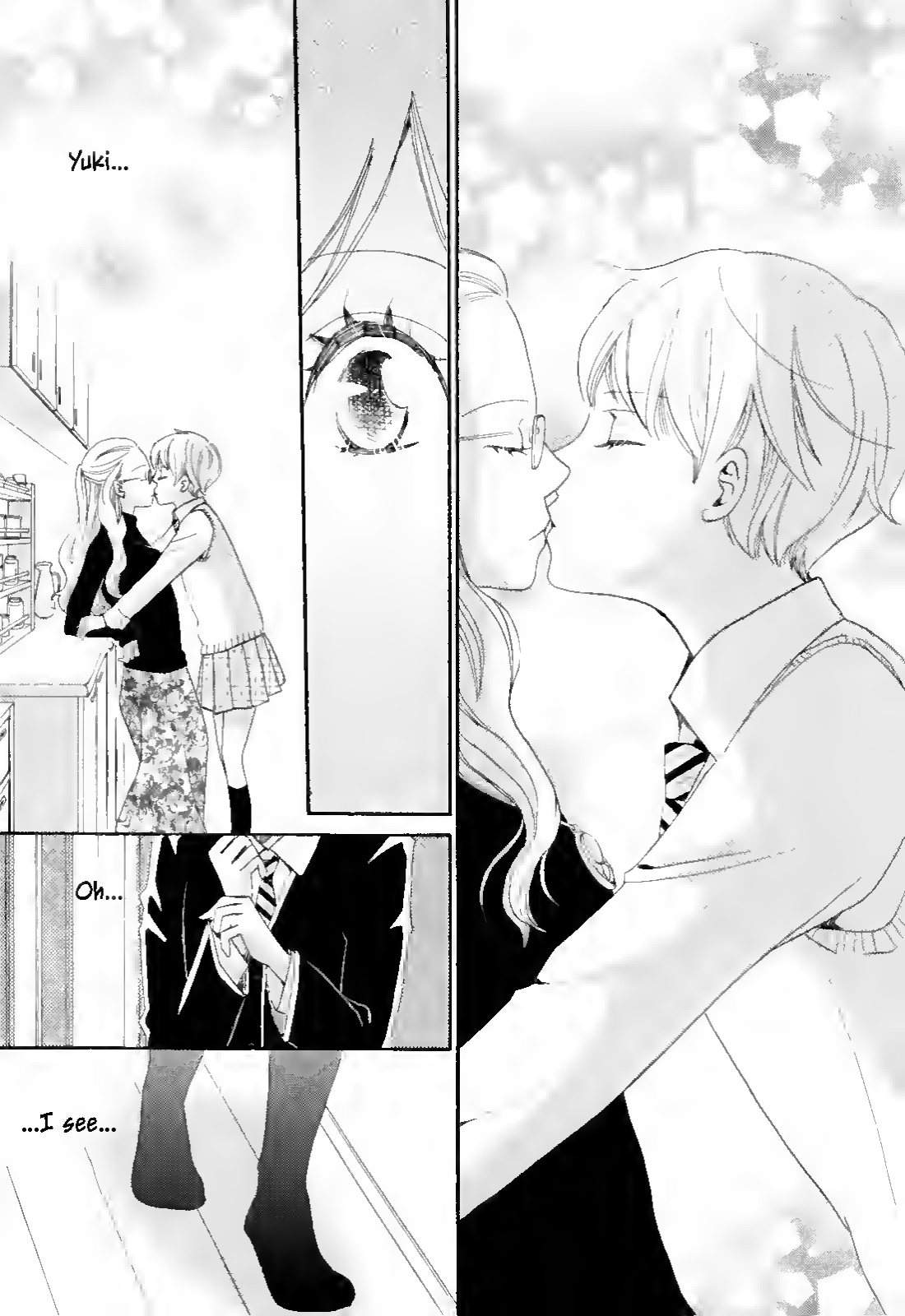
LILIA,
AREN'T YOU CURIOUS, TOO?
WHY DON'T YOU ASK HER?
.....
...I ALREADY KNOW.....

THIS IS HAIJIMA KATAN-SAN.
AND THESE ARE MY FRIENDS MAKI AND LILIA.
MAKI'S A FAN OF YOURS, SOUKO-SAN.
H-... HOW DO YOU DO?
NICE TO MEET YOU.
I'VE BEEN HELPING SOUKO-SAN OUT.
I COLLECT DATA AND MAKE TEA AND STUFF.
YOU CAN REALLY DO THOSE THINGS, YUKI?
HEY!
NOPE!!
MEANIE!

WELL, IT'S THE TRUTH, ISN'T IT?
いちゃ
BUT I'M NOT TOTALLY USELESS, AM I?
HMM, I'M NOT SO SURE.
WHA~AT?
I'LL GO MAKE SOME TEA.
PLEASE MAKE YOUR-SELVES AT HOME.
OH! I'LL HELP.
NO, THANKS.
BUT I WANNA!
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH YOU?

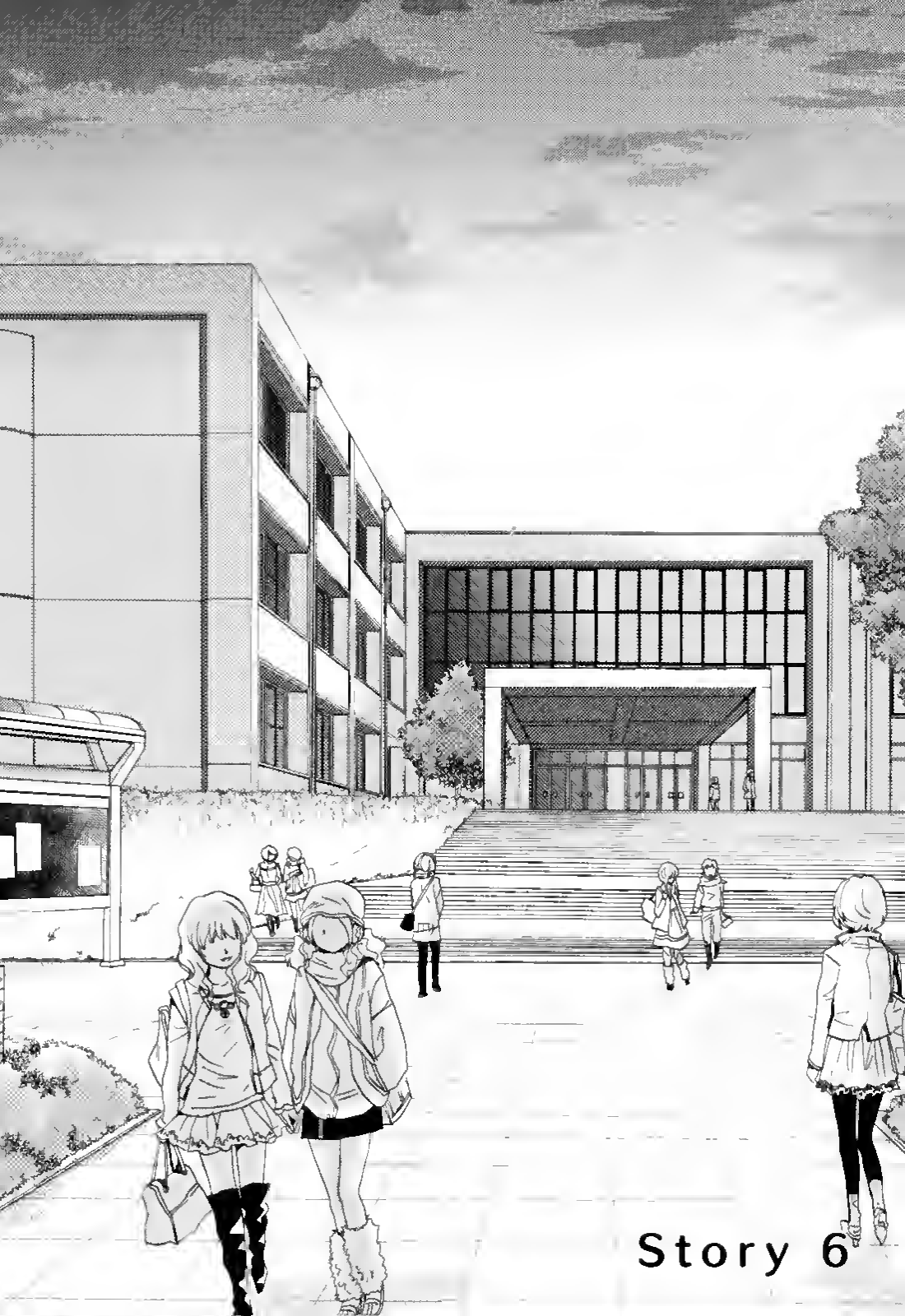
I'M GOING TO GO CHECK ON THEM.
DON'T.

I THINK... IT'LL MAKE YOU CRY.
HEY, NONE OF THAT!
YOUR FRIENDS ARE HERE.
C'MON, JUST A LITTLE.


Yuki...
Oh...
...I see...

I TOLD YOU
NOT TO GO LOOK.
THAT IT WOULD ONLY END IN TEARS...
.....

.....
I'M NOT CRYING.



Story 6

I THINK YOU'VE HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK.
YOU'RE KIND OF A LIGHT-WEIGHT, MAKI.
ANOTHER OOLONG TEA HIGHBALL!
slam
ダン
UNH-UNH!
I'M NOT AS THINK AS YOU DRUNK I AM.

EX-
CUSE
ME!?
WHY DO I
PUT UP WITH
YOUR DRUNK
ASS?
sigh
GO ON!
WANT
SHOME!?
thunk
HEY...
ARE YOU
OKAY?
WHAT
DID I DO
WRONG...?
WAS I
JUST TOO
SLOW?

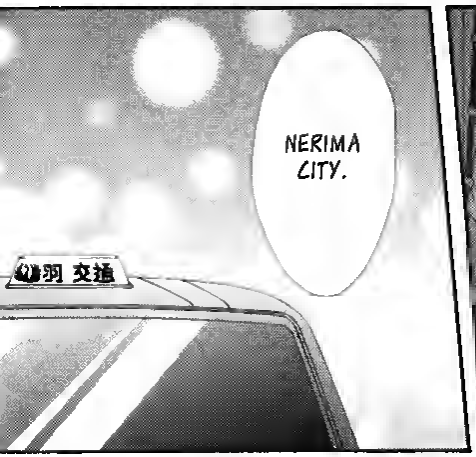
"That manicure
I asked you
for... it's okay.
We can just
forget it."

"Bye,
Maki."

it always ends up like this.
Yes...

LILIA...
I'M SORRY
YOU HAVE TO PUT UP WITH MY WHINING...
DON'T MENTION IT.
HEY, GIRLS. ARE YOU TWO ALL ALONE?
TWO OF YOU, TWO OF US. PERFECT, HUH?
.....
.....
CAN'T YOU SEE SHE'S IN NO MOOD FOR THAT RIGHT NOW!?

YOU'RE CREEPY!
AND YOU'RE NOT OUR TYPE AT ALL!
TCH. LET'S BAIL.
WHO'D WANT A FUGLY BITCH LIKE YOU, ANYWAY?
A FUGLY BITCH, HUH?
HE WAS TALKING TO ME.
.....



* A ward of Tokyo

I...
WISH I'D BEEN BORN A PRINCESS...
...YOU ARE A PRINCESS.

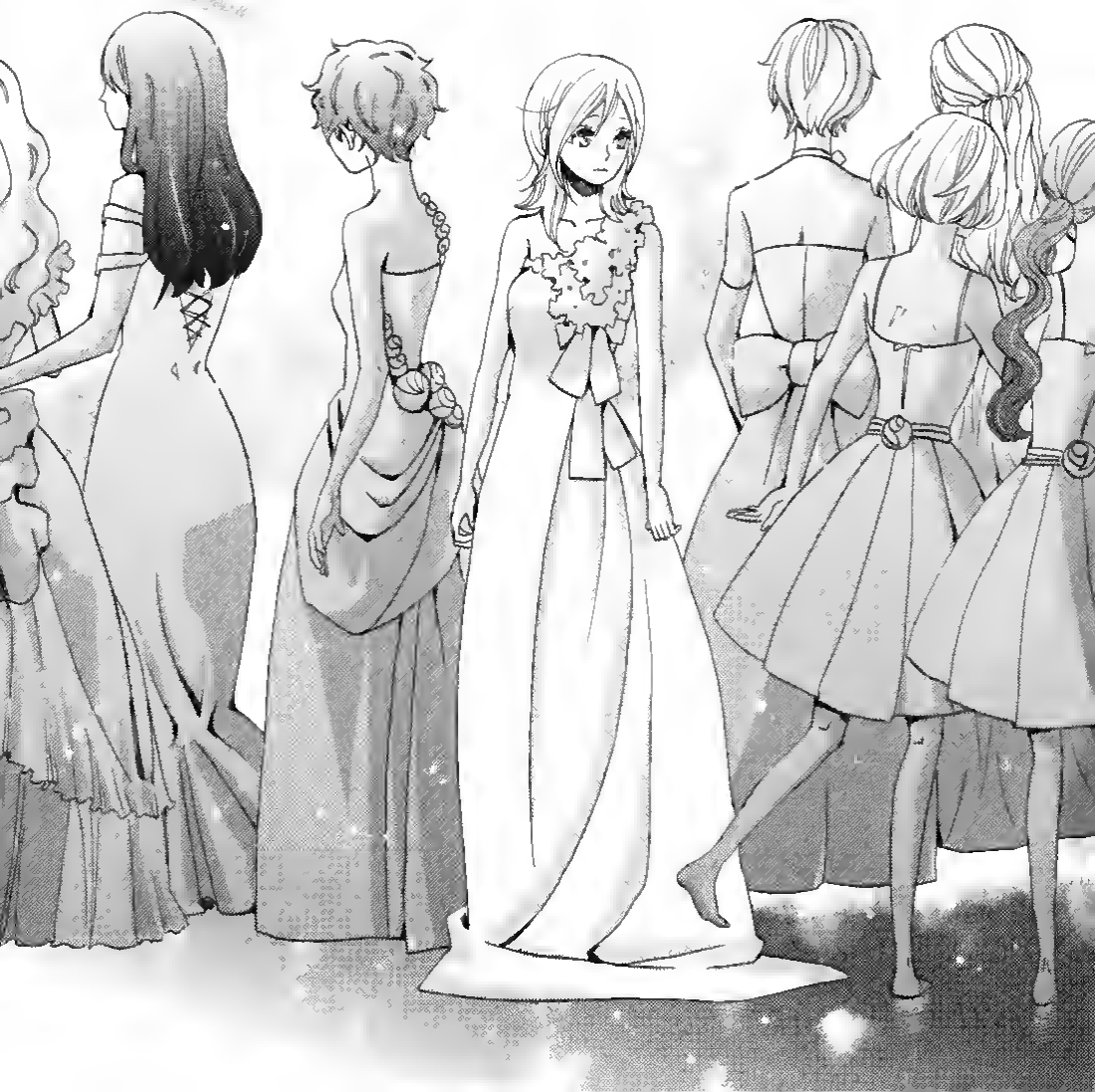
C'MON. YOU CAN MAKE IT.
URGH.
.....

SHE GOT IT ALL OUT,
AND NOW SHE'S OUT LIKE A LIGHT, HUH?

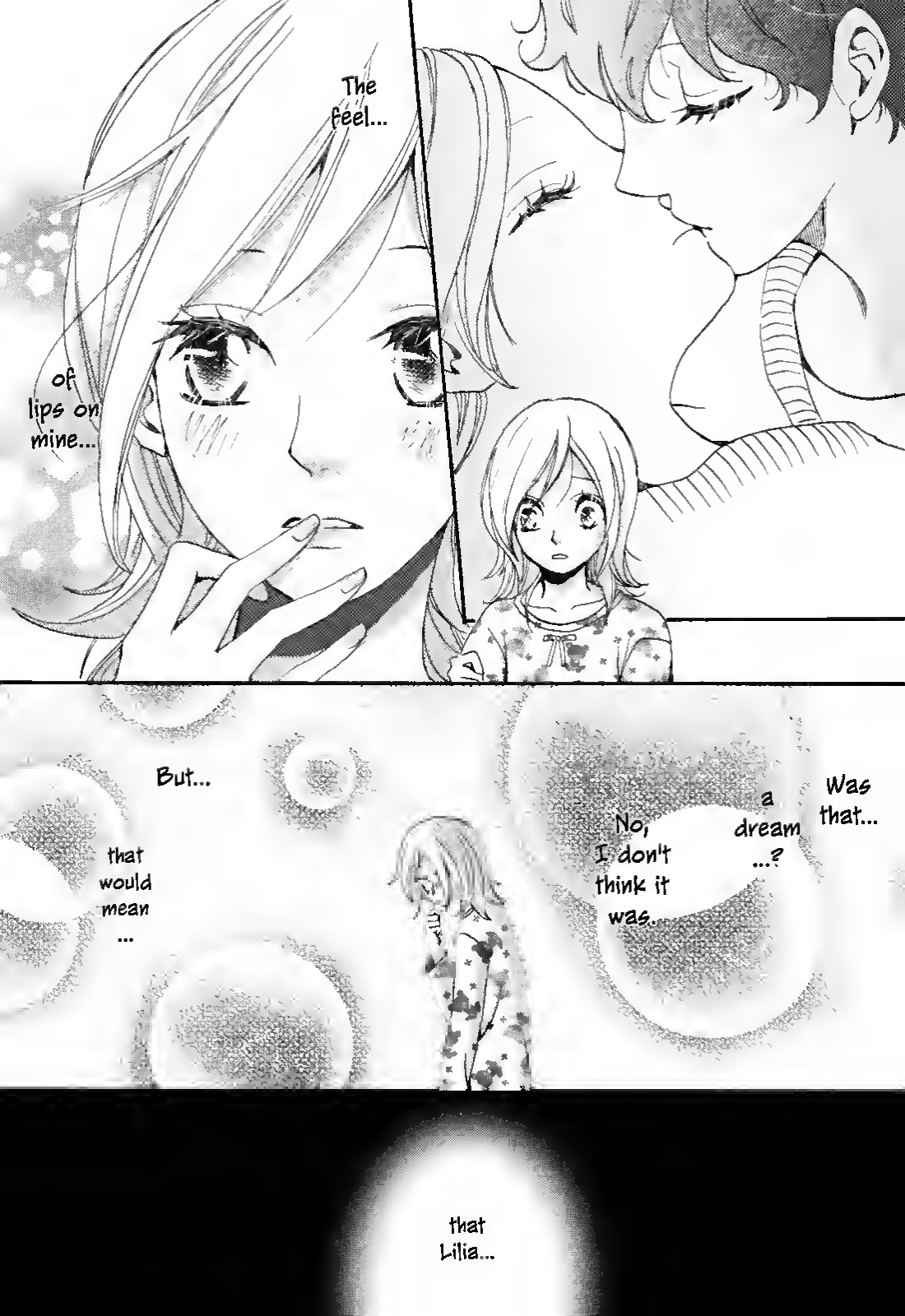
So,
I couldn't wake her, huh? I figured.
I SHOULD GO.
I'M NO MATCH FOR THE BRIARS.
WHAT CHOICE DO I HAVE BUT TO RETREAT?
tmp.

blink

Story 7



ガンガン
throb
throb
My head hurts...
ガンガン
throb
throb
Urgh...
DEFINITELY A HANGOVER...
MAYBE I SHOULD TAKE THE DAY OFF...


The feel...
of lips on mine...
Was that...
a dream ...?
No, I don't think it was.
But...
that would mean ...
that Lilia...

OH, I LIKE IT WHEN YOU GET ALL SHY AND FLUSTERED LIKE THAT, TOO.
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT POP IDOLS RIGHT NOW!
GIVE ME A BREAK! FLATTERY WON'T GET YOU ANYWHERE WITH ME, Y'KNOW!
MAKI,
I THINK YOU'RE THE CUTEST GIRL OUT THERE!
I WANT TO GO TO COLLEGE WITH YOU.
I CAN'T SEND YOU OUT THERE ALL ALONE.
The thought never even crossed my mind...

My heart...

is pounding.

How should I face her...?

HMM?
She's acting totally normal...
Oh...
WHEN I WAS PUTTING OUT MY TRASH THIS MORNING,
ONE OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD CATS...
Urk...! What went through my head just now...!?
...SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.
FWIP

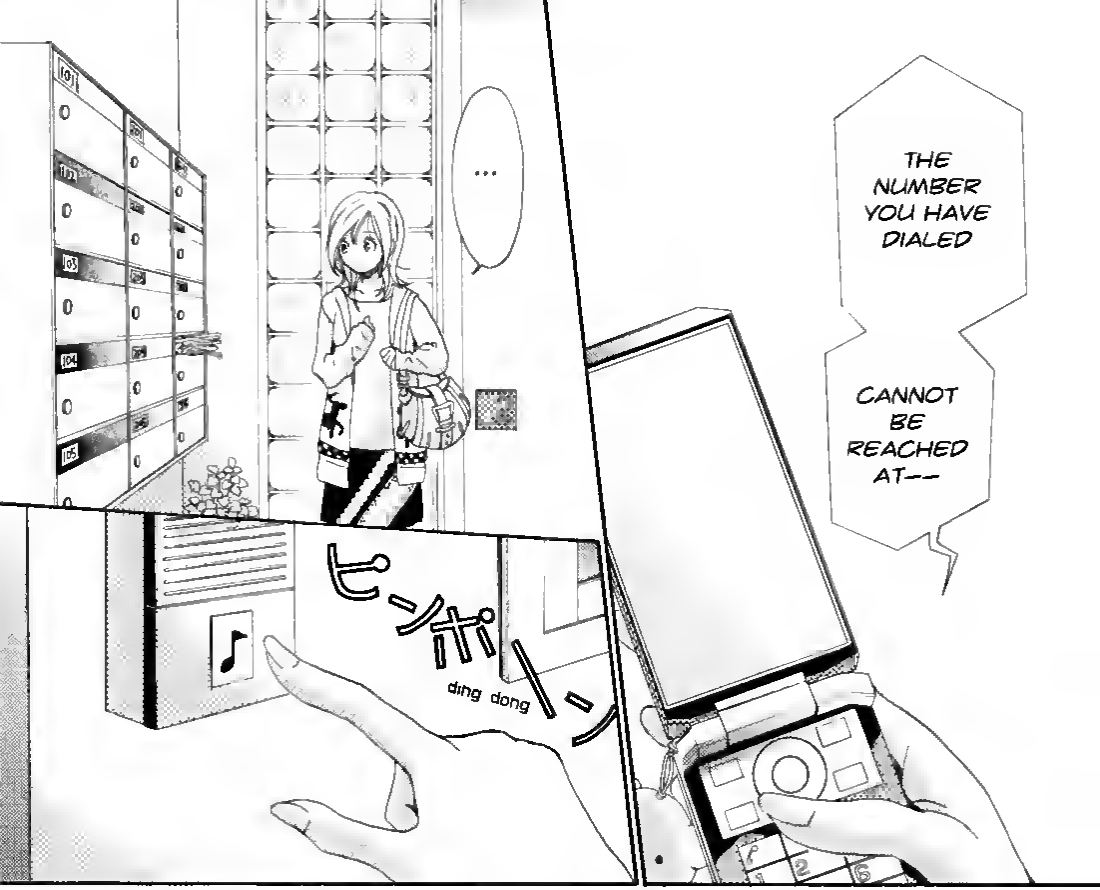
Stop that, heart!
She'll think I'm weird if she hears you pounding like this...
BADUMP
BADUMP
OH!
Ack! Wh-what should I do!?
BADUMP
BADUMP
CAN WE TALK ABOUT SOMETHING LATER?
HUH!?
O-OKAY.
YOUR HAIR...
DON'T!

Oh... I got the wrong idea?
SORRY, YOU JUST STARTLED ME...
...OH...
smack
UM...
IT JUST CAUGHT ME BY SURPRISE, HONEST...

UM, LILIA, WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT...?
WHO WOULDN'T BE STARTLED BY SOMEONE JUST TOUCHING THEM OUT OF THE BLUE?
DON'T WORRY, IT'S COOL.
Y-
YEAH. I'M SORRY.
OH... I WAS GONNA ASK... DO YOU WANNA DO SOMETHING TOGETHER FOR CHRISTMAS?
OH! SURE.
WE COULD HAVE A FANCY DINNER OR SOMETHING.
YEAH, WE'RE BOTH SINGLE RIGHT NOW, HUH?
RIGHT?
YEAH!

*In Japan, Christmas Eve is often celebrated with one's significant other

After
that day,
Lilia
disappeared.


...
THE NUMBER YOU HAVE DIALED
CANNOT BE REACHED AT--
ピンポーン
ding dong

She stopped coming to class a week ago.
304
And she never liked talking on the phone to begin with, so...
WHAT HAPPENED ...?
SHE'S NOT IN SOME SORT OF TROUBLE, IS SHE?
...And now it's been another week.
HUH!?
LILIA?

HAVE YOU TRIED HER PARENTS?
I-I HEARD SHE'S TAKING SOME TIME OFF FROM SCHOOL.
AREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO KNOWS HER BEST?
NO IDEA.
Winter break came, and still no word...
SHE NEVER TOLD ME SHE WAS GOING TO TAKE TIME OFF FROM SCHOOL...
AND I DON'T KNOW... WHERE HER PARENTS LIVE...
I've realized now
how little I know about her...
SHE DIDN'T TELL ME ANY-THING...

I went on and on about myself.

And she just smiled,
How could I be so...
listening patiently.
MAKI!
Oh!
IS THAT YOU?

LONG TIME NO SEE! YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT.
YUKI...
WE SHOULD GET TOGETHER FOR DRINKS AT YOUR COLLEGE SOMETIME! WHAT DO YOU SAY?
LILIA CAN COME TOO.
UM...
WELL, WE MIGHT HAVE TO PUT IT OFF FOR A WHILE. I DON'T THINK SHE CAN MAKE IT RIGHT NOW, WITH HER FATHER'S CONDITION AND ALL.
HUH!?
WHAT?
OH, YOU HAVEN'T HEARD?

HMM, MAYBE SHE DIDN'T WANT TO WORRY YOU.
BUT NOT HEARING ANYTHING WOULD JUST MAKE YOU WORRY MORE, RIGHT?
.....
YUKI... WHERE DO HER PARENTS LIVE...?
OH... DIDN'T SHE TELL YOU?
WE LIVE IN THE SAME NEIGHBORHOOD.
We were friends when we were little
Wait, now that you mention it...
ONE MINUTE...
HERE YOU GO.
beep
IT'S A FLORIST. YOU CAN'T MISS IT.
GO BRING HER SOME VALENTINE'S CHOCOLATE OR SOMETHING.
SHE'S CRAZY ABOUT YOU, Y'KNOW.

Happy
Yuki... must know all about Lilia.
Maybe... Lilia doesn't care about me anymore.
Maybe she wants to forget all about me.
Maybe I shouldn't go see her after a—...

floof

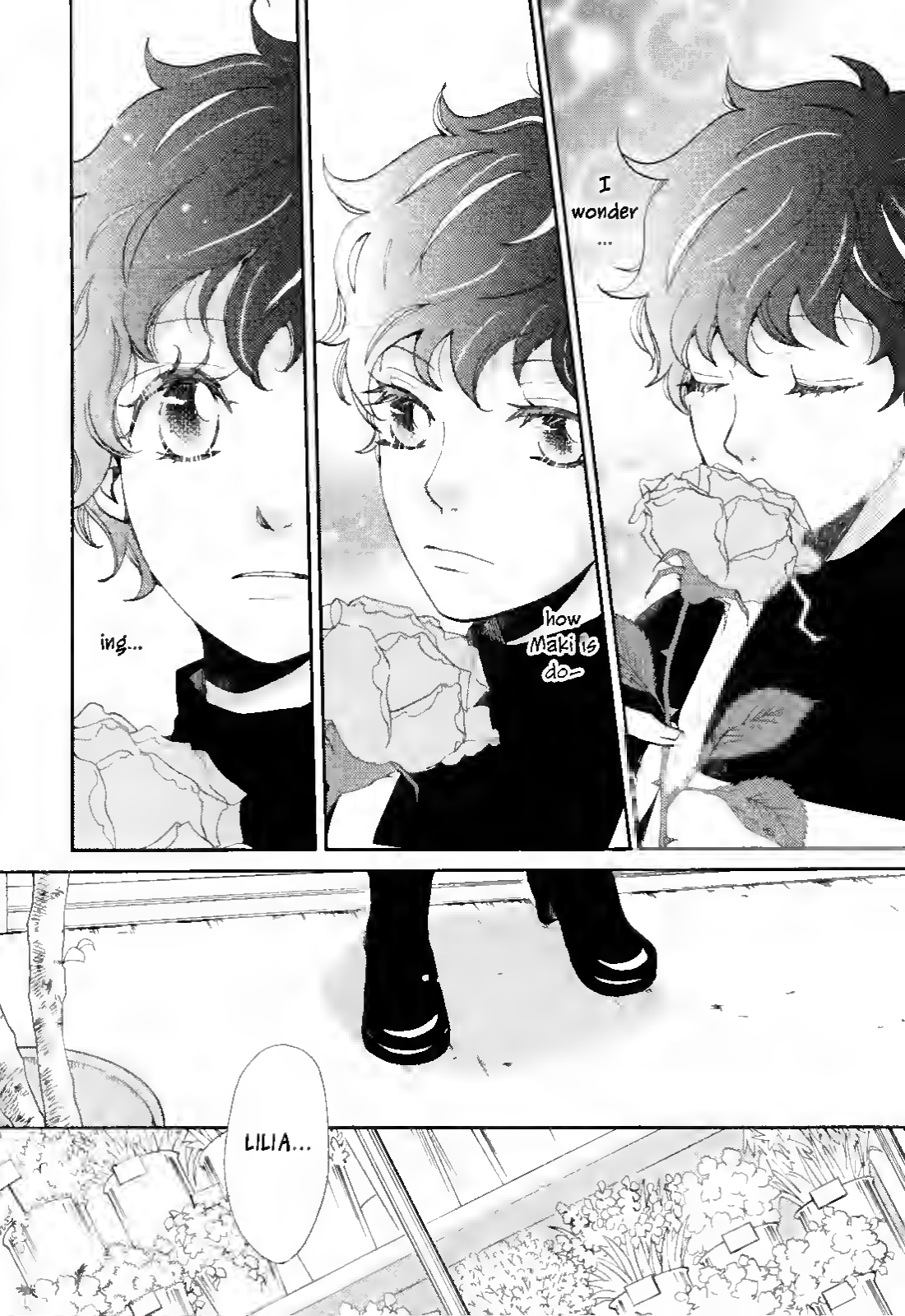
Was that...!?
What...
do I really want to do...?

...I need
clench
I can't stop now.
to go see her right now !!

Story 8

LILIA,
I'LL BE BACK LATER.
OKAY.
SAY HI TO DAD FOR ME.
YOU CAN GO BACK TO SCHOOL NOW.
HE'S DOING A LOT BETTER.
UH-HUH?
LILIA?

WELL, I'D BETTER GET GOING. TAKE GOOD CARE OF THE SHOP!
OKAY...
GUESS I'LL MAKE A BOUQUET...
These roses have no thorns...


I wonder ...
how Maki is do-
ing...
LILIA...

...YOU SCARED ME HALF TO DEATH.
YOU JUST DISAPPEARED, WITH NO WORD AT ALL.
.....

...LILIA,
OH, BUT HE'S FINE NOW...
.....
MY DAD GOT KIND OF SICK.....
I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO LOSE YOU, TOO.
WHEN YOU DISAPPEARED, IT WAS LIKE THIS GREAT BIG HOLE OPENED UP IN MY HEART.
BUT...
I USED TO THINK THE BEST ANSWER TO THAT WAS TO CLOSE MY EYES AND RUN AWAY.

THIS TIME, MY LEGS PROPELLED ME FORWARD...
BECAUSE I WANTED TO SEE YOU SO BADLY.
BEFORE SOMEONE ELSE CAN STEAL YOU AWAY,

I WANT TO BEAT THEM TO IT.
M-... MY LOVE FOR YOU... IT'S THE ROMANTIC KIND OF LOVE. THE KIND WHERE I WANT TO TOUCH YOU.
IT'S NOT JUST FRIENDSHIP...

YEAH,
THAT'S EXACTLY IT.
I WANT TO TOUCH YOU, TOO.
YOU MAKE MY HEART RACE,
AND LEAVE ME FLUSTERED...

...MAKI,
I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU AT FIRST SIGHT.
YOU WERE SO CUTE.
I ALWAYS WISHED YOU WOULD BE MINE.
BUT I'M NOT COOL LIKE A PRINCE...
YOU'RE PRETTY, THOUGH, LILIA.
YOU'RE INCREDIBLY...

BEAUTIFUL ...
LIKE A PRINCESS.
OH,
I ALMOST FORGOT!
I BROUGHT THIS FOR YOU.
OH!
I HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU, TOO...
I DON'T HAVE IT WITH ME, THOUGH...

Hehe
.....
Our feelings...
are the same.

After a long, long sleep,

I fought my way through the briars, and there I found...
longer than you can even imagine,
TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH.
a princess.
You either...?
You're not a prince!?
And the two of us

lived happily ever after...
OH, CRAP.
LOOK WHAT TIME IT IS!

I HAVE AN EARLY CLASS TODAY.
BUT WHAT ABOUT MY REPORT?
CAN'T YOU SKIP IT?
I'LL HELP YOU WITH IT.
WHY DON'T YOU COME BACK TO BED?
OH!
THE CURTAINS!
shk

Our chests...
From the tips of our toes
our skin...
we're glued together...
to the tips of our fingers,

A perfect fit.

From
now on...
let's
share
our
slumber.

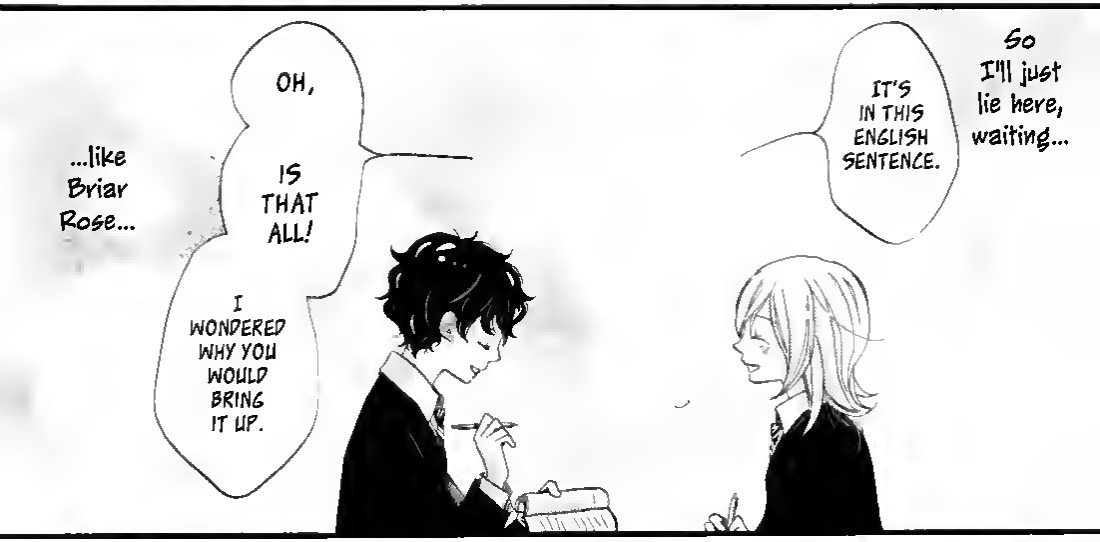
いばらの涙

Briar Tears

Another side's story

Most of the other girls are excited about their new high school life,
but she just looks lonely.
Her straight, layered hair sparkles in the sunlight.
It's a girl from school... the one who sits in front of me.
But the briefest hint of a smile from her...
I'M ISHIDA LILIA.
When I introduced myself, she was taken aback.

over-
whelmed
me.
I didn't realize I liked her *that* way...
until I noticed
that her eyes were always glued to my childhood friend.
You have no chance with Yuki!
You should choose me instead!
If you picked me, I'd...


OH,
IS THAT ALL!
I WONDERED WHY YOU WOULD BRING IT UP.
...like Briar Rose...
IT'S IN THIS ENGLISH SENTENCE.
So I'll just lie here, waiting...

hoping you'll come wake me someday...

This is my seoond Yuri book. It's about a supporting oharacter from my last book. If you've read that one, there will be a few a-ha moments in this one, but don't worry, you'll still understand what's going on either way.
Some other things happened during Maki's junior high years, but I ended up outting them out of this story for various reasons. I was going to make Lilia's hair curlier, too. I didn't give her enough ourls.....!

I like drawing girls in elementary sohool and junior high--high school is pushing it-- so it was pretty tough for me to do a story about oollege kids. (lol)

When I oreate a supporting character with a fairly important role in a story, my mind always starts putting together a baokstory for her. As I'm drawing the manga, I oan't help wondering to myself what her life must be like, and it just oomes together.
So the truth is, I have stories for Kanna, Yuki, and Katan-sensei, too. I think Kanna in partioular isn't at all how she seems.
I keep wondering if I'm ever going to put these stories to paper. (But I just oan't shake the feeling that Kanna's is going to be rejected.....)

But I go moe* over girls in elementary sohool and junior high!
(I have to emphasize that.)

Well, a whole bunoh of assistants helped me out with this one.
There isn't enough room to list them all here, so I'm regretfully omitting them this time. They've been a great help, though. I'm very grateful.

And, and, I'd also like to express my gratitude to all of you for picking up this book. Thank you! I'm praying that you've enjoyed it.

Rikachi
http://rikachi.blog.shinobi.jp/

* In this context, moe (pron, moh-eh) means to have an obsession or burn with desire for. It's a cognate with the more commonly used form of "moe," stories with hyper-cute, infantilized or pre-pubescent girl characters

Tears of Thorn
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Published by Ichijinsha Inc.
2-S-10 Shinjyuku Shinjuku-ku Tokyo, JAPAN
http://www.ichijinsha.co.jp/

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Thank you for choosing this book.

Translator: Erin Subramanian
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Lettering: Carl Vanstiphout

いばらの王

リカチ